

# Children's Newspaper

Every Tuesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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## A MYSTERIOUS BIRD IS THE CUCKOO

### Gate-Crasher of the Nest

Everyone looks forward to hearing the call of the cuckoo—it is emblematic of spring; and, having heard it, everyone is inclined to boast of the fact. Everyone, too, knows that the cuckoo is the great trespasser among birds. But comparatively few know the real truth about its peculiar nesting habits.

THE spell of the cuckoo's song is not the only reason why so much interest is focused on this welcome visitor. More controversy has raged round the cuckoo's domestic affairs than around any other bird.

Until comparatively recent times it was believed that the cuckoo laid her egg on the ground and then flew around with it in her beak until a suitable nest was located in which

to deposit it. A few people still champion this theory, pointing out that cuckoo eggs have been found in small domed nests which have only a tiny entrance hole at the side.

This is perfectly true. It is also true that cuckoos can be seen flying about with eggs in their beaks! The evidence seems conflicting—until we study the findings of present-day experts who have made a close study of the bird's habits.

There now exists abundant photographic proof (including a cinematograph film) establishing beyond all doubt that the egg is laid directly into a nest and not carried there from the ground. "But what about the domed nest argument?" you may ask. The answer is simple. Careful observation has shown that the cuckoo perches on the outside of such a nest and lays her egg through the entrance hole! The operation is not always successful, however, and sometimes the egg falls.

The writer of this article has on several occasions seen a cuckoo flying with an egg in its beak—not its own egg, but the egg of some other bird. This is what happens. In the first place it must be mentioned that the cuckoo's choice of a nest in which to deposit its egg is no haphazard affair. If the cuckoo itself was reared by such foster-

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## Grandstand For Soapbuds

SOAPBUDS, a quaintly-named Texas pony which has appeared in a film and was the favourite companion of America's great humorist Will Rogers, recently celebrated his 30th birthday.

The pony lives a life of ease in a special enclosure on the Rogers estate in America, which is now a State park. Children love to photograph him on sunny days.

Soapbuds was provided with a special truck from which to view the opening of the famous Will Rogers Highway at Amarillo, Texas, in 1939. The pony saw his master for the last time shortly before Will Rogers started on a round-the-world trip in an aeroplane which crashed in a lonely part of North America before the war.

## Identified By Nose-Prints

### AN IDEA FROM SOUTH AFRICA

AT Ondershepoort, South Africa's famous animal research station near Pretoria, experts are working out a system of "finger printing" sheep.

It has been discovered that a sheep nose has a pattern just like the human finger. As in the case of human fingers, no two sheep noses give the same print.

If the animal's nose is smeared with ink, and a special strip of paper then applied, an impression is gained that is invaluable in distinguishing one sheep from another. And now the experts are classifying the various patterns of "nose prints" to make it easier for these to be traced.

Farmers expect considerable help from this new system of identification in the battle against stock theft.

## Luxury Cruises For Cattle

A NEW kind of luxury ship is under construction on the Clyde. The "passengers" will be cows from the Canadian prairies on their way to Britain.

Instead of being squeezed into deep holds, the cattle will be housed in separate air-conditioned stalls between decks. To prevent the beasts being injured the stall walls and posts will be softened by inch-thick felling. The floors will be of white concrete fitted with non-skid strips. Prairie cowboys will see to their feeding and welfare.

## BRIEF ADDRESS

MR GEORGE BERNARD SHAW has received a letter from an American admirer—and the envelope had nothing on it except three postmarked stamps.

The writer of the letter visited three towns in America, and in each town he put a stamp on the envelope and had it postmarked. With nothing else on the envelope he put it into a postbox. In due course the letter arrived at Mr Shaw's home.

The three towns? George and Bernard, in Iowa, and Shaw, in Mississippi.

## Two Girls Sailing For England

TWO of the most excited young people in Southern Rhodesia at the present time are Judith Kerr, of Salisbury, aged 18, and Frances Wooler, of Gwelo, aged 22. Selected by the Southern Rhodesia Princess Elizabeth Birthday Fund to go on a six-week visit to England, they leave at the end of May.

Frances Wooler has the added excitement of looking forward to meeting her brother, for he is one of Southern Rhodesia's most promising young cricketers and is now in England, playing in County cricket.

## GIANT STRIDES



Many Welsh schools are using stilts for physical training, and judging from the expressions on these faces at Christchurch School, Rhyl, they are popular with the pupils.

## Cosmic Sleuths & Their Clues

### THE MYSTERIOUS RAYS

A FINE piece of detective work has just been accomplished by scientists in America. Working mainly at Camp Ripley, in Northern Minnesota, the scientists have unravelled some of the mysteries of the cosmic rays which are beating down day and night on the Earth.

The scientists have found, after painstaking work which included the sending up of stratosphere balloons, that some at least of the cosmic ray particles are composed of the stripped atomic nuclei of the elements—from helium, mass 4, to molybdenum, mass 96.

### An Electron Shower

Never in history has there been so much research on any single problem, with the possible exception of the atomic bomb, as there is going on at present on the cosmic rays. These rays can penetrate through the whole depth of the atmosphere, and then go through many feet of lead. When they strike the atoms of matter they sometimes set going an electron shower, or pieces of the atoms which are hurled out of their position by the impact. Using special collective apparatus, one of the scientists found that a shower sometimes extended over nearly a thousand feet of ground.

Travelling at 185,000 miles a second, these atomic nuclei strike the Earth from all directions. There is, however, a slight "bunching" at the Poles, due to the Earth's magnetic field. There is also a daily variation, which is thought to be due to the heating of the atmosphere by the Sun; this increases the frequency of collision and therefore reduces the number of those particles which reach us. There is also a 27-day variation, which corres-

ponds to the rotation period of the Sun and Moon, though how these affect the cosmic rays is not known.

It is thought that all the elements are represented in the cosmic ray particles, but that only the series from helium to molybdenum get through to us. In the cosmic rays, lithium, beryllium, and boron are scarce, and these are precisely the scarce elements in the Earth's crust.

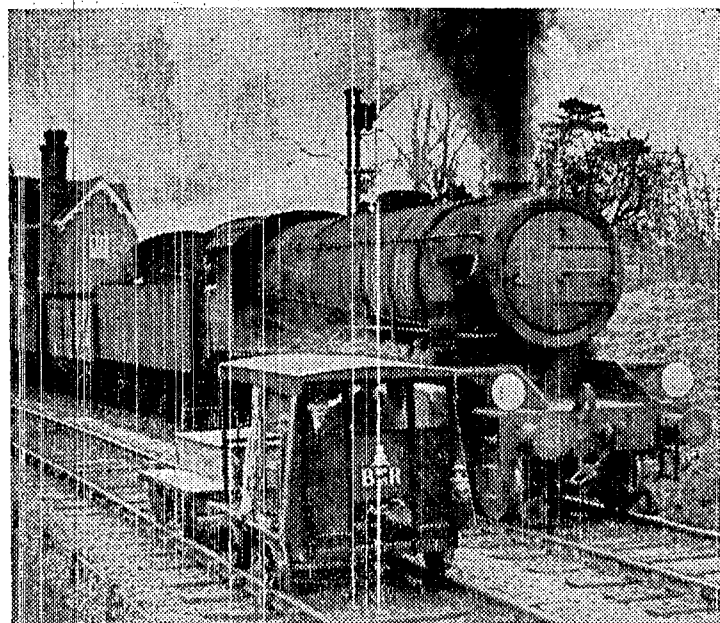
We have to picture the whole of space as being traversed and re-traversed by the cosmic rays. Owing to the existence of gigantic magnetic fields in the Galaxies, the stripped atomic particles are accelerated almost to the speed of light, and hurtle about the Universe, some of them encountering the Earth on their journey.

This raises interesting speculations on the origin of the Universe. Was all the matter in the Universe concentrated, at some distant date, in an intensely dense, gigantic star at the centre of things, and did an enormous explosion take place which blew all the matter outward in every direction? According to this, the effects of the explosion are still continuing, which accounts for the expanding Universe.

### This Growing Earth

Or were the elements evenly spread out over the whole of space in an intensely still, highly rarefied "gas"—the void of the Bible? Then for some reason they began to move, and by impact the accretion formed the stars. This accretion must be still going on, with the cosmic ray particles adding slowly but surely to the masses of the stars, and incidentally the mass of the Earth also.

## TROLLEY-CAR ON THE RAILWAY



With a snort from its funnel a goods train races past a 14 hp trolley at Watlington, Kent. The trolley is used to convey railwaymen working on the lines to and from their work.



# Pioneering the Future of Europe

A C N correspondent at the recent Conference on European Economic Problems at Westminster has sent us these notes.

DURING the past ten years several movements have been started in Britain and on the Continent with the aim of preparing European unity. Their work has not been in vain, for recently we have been witnessing how the European Governments themselves have become convinced that unity of Europe was essential for peace and prosperity. The creation of the Western Union, the organisation of Benelux, and the beginnings of Scandinavian and Franco-Italian customs unions are results.

This is a hopeful start, but nothing more than a start. It is realised, of course, that to make greater progress—and this is the aim of the various European unity movements—success must, above all, be achieved in economic matters. Without economic unity, which means freedom for goods and men to pass from one country to another, no real political unity can be achieved.

It was to discuss these problems that one of the international organisations working for European unity, and whose supporters include Mr Churchill, Monsieur Blum, Signor de Gasperi, and Monsieur Spaak, met in Westminster last month.

## Important Topics

The most important topics discussed by the delegates from many Western countries included these:

1 That the currencies of European nations shall be freely interchangeable.

This is an important point as today it is difficult to obtain certain of the so-called "hard" currencies such as the Swiss or the Belgian franc.

2 That Europeans shall have the right to travel freely in Europe.

3 That Europeans shall have the right to work freely anywhere in Europe.

The present position is that except for some occupations it is far from easy for foreigners to obtain permits to work anywhere in Europe.

# THE MYSTERIOUS CUCKOO

Continued from page 1

parents as, say, yellow-hammers, meadow pipits, wagtails, or hedge-sparrows it will earmark the appropriate nest well beforehand.

When the time comes for it to lay its egg, the cuckoo will make straight for this pre-selected nest, remove one of the eggs already there and deposit her own egg in exchange. Then it will fly off with the stolen egg—and very often eat it! (Incidentally, the cuckoo will steal and eat eggs at any time.)

In due course—about a fortnight—the cuckoo's egg will hatch. The ugly-looking youngster, although still blind, realises at once that it has other eggs or young birds as companions. This it cannot tolerate at any cost, and not later than the second day it will set to work to eject them. After much wriggling it gets its back under the egg or young bird and levers it over the

4 That the goods produced by Europe shall be freely available to all European people.

As things stand this is where the greatest difficulties exist. Various licences and currency permits must first be obtained before goods can be imported to any European country, and, on importing them, customs duties and often purchase tax have also to be paid. Were these obstacles removed the economic situation of Europe would improve beyond recognition.

As the Westminster Conference saw it, the above steps were necessary to remove these immediate evils of the situation: shortage of dollars, currency restrictions, and the cutting down of intra-European trade.

## Basic Industries

But there are other things equally important if Europe is to be put on its feet. European well-being depends also on the proper functioning of basic industries. Western Europe has a large steel industry and is rich in coal, but in the past its resources have been used more for arming Europeans against each other than for promoting their common prosperity. The steel consumption in Western Europe is far below that of the United States. To remedy this would be one of the aims of European union.

Then there is the large European agricultural industry employing no fewer than 145 million persons. Properly developed and made to work for Europe as a whole rather than for individual nations, it could help in feeding our part of the world with less dependence on America.

Although a meeting of voluntary organisations, the Westminster Conference fulfilled a vital task by drawing the attention of Governments and nations alike to the great amount of work to be done. In a word, it warned Europe that prosperity will not be achieved without drastic reforms and a good deal of give and take.

side of the nest. After a brief rest it repeats the operation until it is in sole possession! If a small stone or perhaps an acorn were placed in the nest, the young cuckoo would deal with it in exactly the same manner.

Strangely enough, the foster-parents make no attempt to minister to their own slowly-dying youngsters who have been so unceremoniously thrown overboard, but will concentrate all their attention on the gate-crasher.

The young cuckoo grows at an amazing rate and in a few days it may be twice the size of the overworked birds who have to feed it. Even after it leaves the nest the foster-parents follow it about for a few days and keep it supplied with insect food. When, however, the bird has to fend for itself for the first time it becomes practically a vegetarian—for it seems to lack the skill—or patience—to become a hunter.

# Atlantic Convoy in Miniature

INCLUDED in a recent display of modern naval training methods given at the Royal Naval College was a dramatic representation of a convoy's crossing from Halifax to Liverpool in 1942. The story was told in a series of short scenes presented in the college theatre.

First of all the audience was shown a miniature "ocean," with model ships indicating the position and arrangement of the convoy and its escort vessels. A narrator briefly explained where the convoy was going and the dangers it had to face.

Then the real drama began with a conference of officers who discussed the tactics that might be followed on the voyage. The scene changed and the spectators saw a captain enter his cabin after a cold and anxious night on the bridge of his destroyer. While he thawed out over a cup of tea the captain told what had happened to the convoy since they had left Halifax.

Scene three showed the bridge of another ship where men struggled for breath in a high wind and strained their eyes for a sight of the enemy. A submarine was sighted in the stormy waters and a sharp series of orders indicated that an attack was being made on her.

The last scene of all was in an aircraft called up to the assistance of the convoy. It spotted the submarine and sank it.

This drama at the Royal Naval College forms part of an exercise called "Trident" and helps to make the study of naval problems more realistic.

# BAPTIST GIFT TO THE ABBEY

AN impressive sign of the growing unity of Christians is the Baptist Missionary Society's gift of a beautiful carved English walnut lectern to Westminster Abbey. The lectern is inscribed to the memory of the famous Baptist missionary William Carey, the first English Protestant to carry Christianity to the peoples of India.

The lectern cost £1500. It is six feet high and its two book rests are inscribed: Expect great things from God, and, Attempt great things for God. The desk rests on the heads of four cherubim modelled by the sculptor Alfred Hardiman, and these heads are borne on a column with a beautifully-carved base.

# Dancing is a World Language

MEMBERS of Dundee International Folk Dance Club, who believe that dancing is really an international language, have set out to learn at least one dance from every country in the world. At present they are busy practising a semi-religious dance from Japan.

To make sure that they have the dances correctly, officials of the club have opened correspondence with clubs in many parts of the world, and they intend later to give a public display.

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# NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

## Sugared Pill

Before they are X-rayed in Brompton and Southwark hospitals, London children will be given sweets.

The French Government has presented a tapestry to the B B C in recognition of "the help and comfort the London radio offered in the dark days of the occupation." The tapestry was made by the famous modern artist Lurcat.

A children's theatre club at Finchley, North London, is producing *The Blue Bird* on Wednesday this week. The boys and girls make their own "props" and scenery, and Cheerful Charlie Chester is their President.

A Northamptonshire hen has mothered two puppies, taking them under her wings as though they were chicks.

## RAT(E) PAYERS

During a meeting of the Standing Committee on the Prevention of Damage by Pests Bill it was stated that each rat cost the ratepayers £1.

When Pandit Nehru, Prime Minister of India, visited the Dail Eireann (Irish Parliament) recently, it was the first time in the history of the Dail that a visitor had been allowed on the floor of the Chamber while the House was in session.

Students going straight from school to a university, technical college, and certain other educational establishments, may now apply for deferment of their call-up for National Service. Candidates, however, must be able to complete their further education courses before their liability for call-up ends, which, generally, is at 26.



Riding High—All the eyes turn when this enthusiast passes along the highway on his penny-farthing bicycle.

A London taxi-driver, Mr Samuel Becker, has won the 1948 Binney Memorial Medal for the bravest act in support of law and order. Last year he stopped and handed over to the police a man concerned in a shooting affray.

## TO AND FRO

Mr William Seton Meston, aged 86, of Inverurie, Aberdeenshire, has for 70 years held season tickets for the railway journey between Inverurie and Aberdeen. He still makes the return journey of 17 miles to work each day.

Among additions to the collections at Dickens House, Doughty Street, is the Dickens family Bible, with entries in Dickens's handwriting.

Howard Painter, aged 14½, of Bognor, Sussex, recently rowed a mile in his ten-foot dinghy to rescue a schoolmaster who had been blown out to sea in an ex-R A F float. Howard's mother and grandfather watched him carry out the rescue.

## Six Weeks in the Air

Two American airmen have established a new endurance record by flying continuously for six weeks. The previous record, made ten years ago, was four weeks three days and 16 hours. The non-stop fliers, Mr William Barris and Mr Richard Riedel, said their worst experience was the noise of the engine getting on their nerves.

The new groundnut port in Tanganyika, to be built on a lagoon of Mikindani Bay, is to be called Mtwara.

Britain and Australia have made an agreement under which this country will buy Australia's exportable surplus of meat for 15 years.

Two Sunday school sessions are necessary at the London City Mission, Greenwich, because of the large number of children attending.

## LEFT, RIGHT

At a Ministry of Supply sale at Plymouth, 1000 unmatched boots and shoes were sold for 2½d each.

Mr Alan Bristow has made the first helicopter flight from London to Paris in a Westland Sikorsky S51. He ascended from a roof next to Olympia and landed in the Esplanade des Invalides. His time for the journey was two hours nineteen minutes, including a stop of 15 minutes at Le Touquet.

Fees for admission to their lands on Boat Race Day gave Brentford and Chiswick Council a profit of £661 19s 9d.

The production of milk in England and Wales has reached the target figure for 1952-53. If the increase in production continues, cream should be available to the public next year, and more milk could also go to manufacturers of chocolate and ice-cream.

## Egg and Chips

A starling laid an egg on a plate of chips that Mr Woodward of Bath had placed outside his door for his cat.

The Town and Country Planning Ministry have announced that grey telephone kiosks are to be provided for certain beauty spots as they merge into the landscape.

The final manuscript of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg speech has been sold for £13,500 in New York.

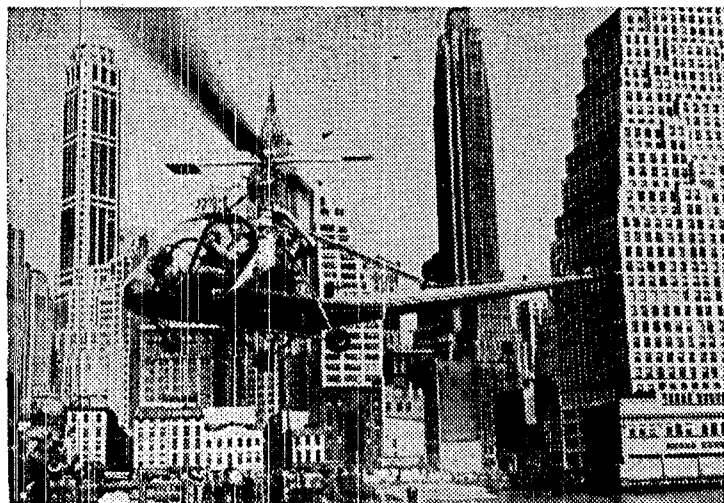
Mumia, Paramount Chief of North Nyanza, who died recently at the age of about 90, had for 70 years been a faithful friend to the British. He was awarded the King's Medal for native chiefs in 1922.

## GRUMBLES

Among schoolboy complaints at a "grumble meeting" held recently at a London school were: not enough time for homework, small choice of hymns, no mirror in the changing room, cheese pie at school dinners, and hard stools in the laboratory.

The Maori Princess Hinekatorangi Apatu, who died recently in New Zealand, owned property said to be worth about £1,000,000. During the First World War she collected many thousands of pounds to help the war effort, and during the Second War she organised the making of camouflage nets by the Maoris.





### Among the Skyscrapers

A helicopter lands in Wall Street, New York, after completing a transcontinental flight at an average speed of 76 m.p.h.

### ROBINS IN RESIDENCE

MR F. E. CORDY, a timber merchant of Lingwood Mill, Norfolk, has put his haulage tractor out of commission for a few weeks, much to the delight of a certain Mrs Robin.

When Mr Cordy went to use the tractor the other day he found that a pair of robins had chosen it as a site for their home. The nest was on a crossbar only a few inches from the winding chain, and Mrs Robin refused to leave. Each night an egg was added.

Mr Cordy has decided that in view of the housing shortage he will lay up his tractor until the eggs are hatched.

### Little Ship With a Big Mission

THE 40-foot ketch Cecily II has been completed at Auckland, New Zealand, for mission work in the Solomon Islands. She is the successor to Cecily, a ketch which was used by Methodist missionaries in the Solomon Islands until 1942 and destroyed during the Japanese occupation; and she is to be "the Doctor's boat," enabling the medical officer of the Methodist Mission to visit scores of villages in the scattered islands.

The original Cecily was presented to the missionaries by Mr John Astley, of Auckland, and named after his mother; and it was Mr and Mrs Astley who started the fund to provide Cecily II.

Like the ship John Williams the tiny Cecily II is a little ship with a big mission.

### DOGS' OWN DAY

USUALLY, on a bus or tram, a man and his dog constitute something of a difficulty. It rests entirely with the conductor whether permission is given or refused for a dog to travel with his master or mistress.

In Sydney the other day the position was reversed. A man was refused permission to travel on a tram because he had no dog with him!

The tram was a "dogs' special," going to the showground for the Royal Easter Show. Every occupant of this tram had his dog with him, for exhibit at the show, and no human interlopers were allowed to travel except the dogs' masters.

### National Health Service For US

THE United States now has a plan for a national health service. It is embodied in a Bill introduced by Senator Murray, and is commended to Congress in a special message by President Truman.

Last September a report on medical facilities in the USA stated that only a minority of families were in a position to pay for the medical services they needed, and that only compulsory health insurance would meet the situation adequately.

Unlike our own country, the United States has never had a general system of health insurance, not even such as we had before July last year. Apart from private insurance, however, two non-profit-making concerns, the Blue Cross and the Blue Shield, claiming together about 37 million members, have collected contributions towards the expenses for doctors' bills or hospital treatment.

The new Bill for compulsory insurance calls for equal contribution from employees and employers, and the general scheme is very much like our own.

### STAMP NEWS

A NEW stamp issued in France honours French expeditions to the Polar regions. Another, a 25-franc red and blue stamp, symbolises Franco-American friendship.

NEW stamps planned for Finland will honour the International Forestry Congress (to be held there in July) and the centenary of the Institute of Technology in the autumn.

THE Tapling Collection is now back on view at the British Museum, after being stored away for safe keeping during the war.

THE USA commemorates the foundation, 200 years ago, of Alexandria, Virginia, by a new airmail stamp.

### FISHY STORY

IN an article in the Science Magazine, an American journal, a writer says that he was present at Marksville, Louisiana, when it actually rained fresh fish; hundreds of fish between two and nine inches long fell on the wondering townspeople.

The unusual deluge was attributed to small tornadoes which had occurred a few hours previously.

### 4000 MILES FOR £10

THE high cost of living and the spirit of adventure is inducing thousands of Australian boys and girls to spend their annual holidays hitch-hiking.

Two 14-year-old boys recently crossed the continent from north to south across the barren centre, and returned via the east coast. The 4000-mile journey took them three and a half weeks and cost them under £10.

### For the Town of Their Boyhood

THE town of Alva in Scotland is fortunate in its benefits under the Cochrane Foundation. The latest example is the purchase by the Foundation Directors of the Mira-Mer hotel at Skelmorlie, Ayrshire, as a holiday home for old folks from Alva. It will open in July and 12 to 15 people at a time will be able to spend a fortnight there each year.

The Foundation was established by three Cochrane brothers, James, Charles, and John, who, as boys, emigrated from the town to America. They prospered in the carpet-making industry, but always remembered their native place. In addition to many gifts in their lifetime, including the recreation park and a hall, they established the Foundation for the town's benefit, and on the death of the last brother it received the residue of their estate of about £250,000.

### SHOP EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS

ALTHOUGH Christmas is still eight months away, parents in South Africa are already buying toys for their children.

The Union Government, in its efforts to save sterling, has put a ban on the import of toys. So there has been a rush on toyshops to buy playthings before present stocks are exhausted.

When the Minister of Finance, Mr Havenga, presented his Budget to the House of Assembly recently, he made clear that the Union was living beyond its income: it was buying more goods than it could sell. So he put a ban on a whole range of imported goods, and toys were among them.

## Athletics in Africa

OFF to the Gold Coast is former Olympic athlete Sir Sidney Abrahams; he is to advise the natives on the organisation of their sporting activities.

Sir Sidney, who was President of the London Athletic Club for 1947-48, is no stranger to sport in the African Colonies, for as long ago as 1925 he founded the Uganda Athletic Association. In those days the Colony boasted only a few school teams; today there are 57 clubs which compete in an inter-Colony match with Kenya.

The Gold Coast has already made a start. "There is a great deal of enthusiasm in the Gold Coast," says Sir Sidney, "and they have done much already. I want to help them on a bit further." Two athletes from the Gold Coast represented Cambridge in the Inter-Varsity sports earlier this year. They were

Ansah, a hurdler, and the high jumper, Akiwumi, and both came third in their respective events.

Nigeria, next door to the Gold Coast, has already sent promising athletes to this country, including Prince Adedoyin, now at Belfast University. He represented Britain in the Olympic Games and gained fifth position in the long jump with a leap of 23 feet 10½ inches.

Sir Sidney is convinced that the Gold Coast can follow Nigeria's example. Everyone will agree with him when he says: "I want to see the people of West Africa, many of whom are fine natural athletes, taking their proper place in international sporting events, and competing on equal terms with the best of the world's athletes, and, particularly, with the great African athletes of America and elsewhere."

### Rare Visitors

ON only one occasion has the black-winged still been known to nest in this country. Now there is great excitement among bird lovers because five of these rare waders have arrived in a village "somewhere in East Anglia."

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is taking the utmost precautions to keep secret the name of the place, and even the county, for fear of attracting the attention of unscrupulous professional egg dealers.

Officials of the Society have travelled from London to keep guard. Quite oblivious of all the interest and anxiety, the birds have been walking to and fro along a lonely stretch of river bank making a survey of possible sites for nesting.

### POSTS THAT BEND

CONCRETE posts that bend were in use at the British Automobile Racing Club's recent meeting at Goodwood, Sussex. Made of long strands of piano wire "soaked" in concrete, these posts are designed to vibrate but remain unbroken when hit by a car at speed. The idea has been put forward that local councils would find this material more economical for fences than most materials.

### SWEET SINGER

GLENDIA RAYMOND, the 26-year-old Australian singer recently given the leading role in the London revival of The Immortal Hour, is probably Australia's greatest exponent of A. A. Milne's delightful songs for children. She left Australia late last year, paying her own passage with savings from a year's singing tour.

### Homework Indeed

WHEN the students of a girls' college in New Brunswick, in New Jersey, do their homework they help others as well as themselves; and in doing so they enable New Brunswick to claim that it is the only town in the world without a servant problem.

A major part of the college course is devoted to subjects such as cooking, house-management, shopping, and so on. Then the college authorities had an idea. Why not let the students do their "homework" in the homes of other people?

With the approval of the girls—and the New Brunswick residents—the college now runs a regular service of domestic help with fixed rates ranging from 2s 9d an hour for serving and washing-up to 5s for general duties which include house-cleaning, shopping, cooking—and baby-sitting.



### Queue For Boats

One of the most popular spots for Londoners who spend their holidays at home is Regent's Park. Here we see young oarsmen waiting for boats.



4 CN ZOO CORRESPONDENT WRITES ABOUT ...

## Interesting New Arrivals and a Hard-Working Quintette

SEVERAL interesting little animals have recently reached London Zoo by chance, not the least unusual being a baby female fox, and a gecko, which is a tropical house lizard. The fox cub, indeed, now in the Children's Zoo, is quite "stealing the limelight." And no wonder. For with her fluffy grey-brown coat and small pointed tail, Tishy, as she has been named, is a most attractive little creature.

This baby vixen has a queer history. She was found lying beside a main road at Mill Hill, only a few miles from Regent's Park, though how she got there is anybody's guess. Most likely explanation is that the cub was being carried by its mother who took fright at an approaching car and dropped her baby. Luckily, the cub was found soon afterwards by a passing pedestrian who had the wisdom to take it forthwith to the Zoo.

### On the Bottle

On reaching the Gardens little Tishy, who was much too young to feed herself, was promptly put "on the bottle," and was taken to her Ealing home nightly by Miss Pat Proctor, the supervisor. Now, Tishy is just able to take other food, and her daily dish, which she laps up with great relish, is a small amount of cooked mincemeat with a little warm milk over it.

THE other unusual newcomer, a four-inch-long Moorish gecko, is now at the reptile house, where it is astonishing visitors by its nimbleness and its ability to run upside down on the ceiling of its cage, a feat which it is enabled to accomplish by reason of its adhesive disc-like toes.

The gecko's story was outlined to me by a Zoo official, who said: "A cargo boat had arrived at London Docks from Africa with a freight mainly of bones. As there were many rats on board, the services of a professional rat-catcher and his assistants were engaged to round up the vermin. "While working down in the hold, the men saw the gecko running across the floor, and gave chase. They caught it without much trouble, put it in a jam-jar, and phoned to ask if we would like it. We readily accepted it as we have not had a gecko of this kind on show for some time."

Since its arrival the gecko has been repeatedly offered food, but, at the moment of writing, is apparently on hunger-strike. "Not that we are very surprised about that," the official added. "There was insect food aplenty on board the ship, and no doubt the gecko 'stowaway' did himself very well on the trip over!"

LITTLE animals of this order may come and go, but the good old donkey goes on for ever—or so it seems! Five of these animals—Gubby, Paddy, Polly, Daisy, and Joey—are now on duty each afternoon in the Gardens, and very smart they are looking, for each has just been supplied with new shoes by the Zoo farrier, Mr Withers.

Mr Withers has shod animals of all kinds, from zebras to onagers (wild asses), but he never had a happier job than with these five riding donkeys. Each, being extremely well trained, obediently lifted its four feet in succession for the farrier's attention.

The quintette are very hard-working and give rides, between them, to something like 500 children on a busy day. C.H.

### In Fine Style



A young rider clears a fence with ease during a gymkhana at Timperley, Cheshire.

ERIC GILLET TELS US ABOUT SOME ...

## Quaint Characters in the Latest Disney Film

THE new Disney, Melody Time, is constructed on lines similar to those of Make Mine Music, though it never achieves the absorbing interest of Peter and the Wolf or the magnificent absurdity of Willie the Whale.

Melody Time is almost always a joy to look at and there is only one item that completely fails to come off. That is Trees, an attempt to bring to the screen Joyce Kilmer's famous poem, with a storm that does not efface a memory of the more effective storm in Bambi, and some "arty-crafty" vegetation that does not convince or satisfy. All the other episodes charm or amuse though there is nothing wildly funny except the strange adventures of the New York tug, Little Toot, one of Disney's best comic creations. The Andrews Sisters sing this number.

The film opens with a delightful eighteenth-century fantasy, Once Upon a Wintertime, sung

## ALL SORTS OF PENCILS SOME TASTE LIKE CHOCOLATE

A PENCIL to most of us is just a pencil, but to the manufacturer it is a very specialised product, especially if, as is now the case in America, the pencil is to be used for school and Civil Service examinations. For these a special pencil is used, the electrical conductivity of which is very carefully measured. When these pencils are used to write with it is possible to distinguish the graphite mark from the mark of any other pencil by measuring the electrical resistance over a unit length.

### For Every Need

Besides indelible pencils, there are now pencils to write on meat, tin, glass, chinaware, and fabrics. Each of these pencils is a specialised product, the result of much research on the qualities of different types of graphite, or other blended material. The chemist's understanding of these has made these special pencils possible.

What nobody can understand, however, is why yellow should be the most popular shade for pencils. During the war we had the Utility pencil, with its plain, unpainted wood, but yellow is now the favourite colour, and pencils of this shade disappear from desks more readily than any other.

For pencil chewers America now has pencils with the ends flavoured in chocolate or strawberry, so that the maximum enjoyment may be obtained by the chewer!

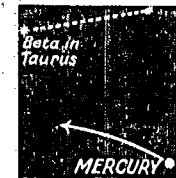
CN ASTRONOMER TELLS OF AN ...

## Astonishing Sight on Elusive Mercury

THE planet Mercury, so rarely visible, may now be found in the western sky after sunset.

Between 9 and 10.30 o'clock is the best time to look for him, when, appearing like a bright first magnitude star, he may be seen not far above the horizon. The later Mercury is looked for the brighter his golden hue may appear, owing to the deepening twilight. But by then he will be nearer to the horizon, and if there is the usual haze Mercury may not be so readily perceived.

So infrequently is Mercury well placed for observation that it becomes quite an achievement to get a glimpse of him. It is recorded that Tycho Brahe, the learned Danish astronomer,



Present position of Mercury, the arrow indicating the planet's path during the next fortnight

never managed to see Mercury—but that was three-and-a-half centuries ago. The next two weeks will provide the best opportunity for this year.

There happens to be no bright planet perceptible at present in the vicinity on this occasion as a guide to the elusive Mercury; but there are two stars about 14 times the Moon's apparent diameter apart (that is, about seven degrees) which are above Mercury, as indicated on the star-map. These stars should be perceptible as the sky darkens; one, Beta-in-Taurus, being of second magnitude, and the other of third. They will be found to the right of due west and will form a triangle with Mercury.

At present Mercury is the nearest of all the planets, and about 75 million miles away. His appearance through a telescope resembles that of the Moon a little before First Quarter phase, but about 220 times smaller in diameter. In a couple of weeks' time Mercury will have become a crescent, considerably larger owing to reduced distance from the Earth.

Eventually, in about three weeks' time, this crescent will have become so slender that Mercury will finally vanish. He will then be almost between the Earth and the Sun, and at his nearest to us.

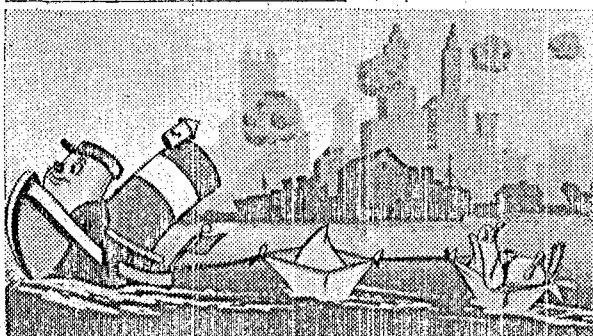
### Speeding-Up

The distance of Mercury from the Sun varies from 28,550,000 miles at perihelion to 43,350,000 miles at aphelion. Consequently the speed with which Mercury travels in his orbit changes from about 24 miles a second at aphelion to 36 miles a second at perihelion when Mercury is at his nearest to the Sun. As Mercury takes only about 88 days to travel round the Sun, these enormous differences of speed and distance from the Sun occur at intervals of little more than six weeks.

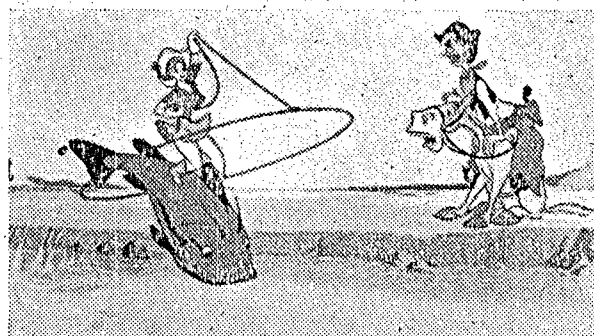
An astonishing phenomenon would therefore be witnessed were we on Mercury. This would be an immense apparent growth of the Sun in the course of the six weeks. When at aphelion the Sun's surface would appear about 4½ times larger than it does to us on Earth, but by perihelion its size would have increased to 10½ times.

As this enormous apparent expansion takes place in only about six weeks and is followed by a corresponding shrinkage during the next six weeks, it would present something of a problem for any Mercurians unacquainted with the plan of the Solar System. It is very fortunate for us that no such extremes of variation torment our world.

G. F. M.



Little Toot chugs across New York Harbour



Bluefoot Sue astonishes Pecos Bill



Young Pecos Bill rides the trail



The Children's Newspaper, May 14, 1949

# Young Britons at School in Germany

More than 5000 British schoolboys and girls now go to school in Germany. They are the children of the men and women of our Forces and of the officials of the Control Commission in the British Zone.

THESE British people live mostly in small groups scattered all over the Zone and their sons and daughters go to 90 schools of various sizes. The schools are for British children only, the few Germans attending them being children whose German fathers have died but whose mothers are now married to members of our Occupation Services.

The majority of the teachers, too, are British, though some German masters and mistresses are employed. The schools are mostly Primary, only four being of the Secondary grade, including one at Hamburg.

There are, however, two British boarding schools, and one of these, King Alfred School, is an interesting educational experiment; for it is the biggest State co-educational boarding school for British boys and girls.

KING ALFRED SCHOOL is situated at Plön beside the beautiful lake called the Plöner See amid the pine forests of Schleswig-Holstein. Its pleasant buildings, dotted about among the trees, were erected not long before the war as a German naval establishment. It has about 600 pupils, about half of them boys and half girls.

Some 300 of the pupils are eleven and twelve years old, so that there are several First Forms but only one Sixth Form. The prefects, both girls and boys, are called helpers.

The school is run on the same lines as a Public School at home. There are houses, named Churchill, Fleming, Nansen, Roosevelt, and Temple, and the friendly rivalry between the respective houses is as keen as in schools in Great Britain.



Getting Together—German boys and girls visit a British Primary school in Berlin

THERE are no fees, and the parents of the boys and girls belong to all ranks of the Forces or Control Commission. Thus the son of the brigadier sits in class beside the son of the private soldier.

They are lucky young people at King Alfred School, for there is plenty of fun to be had there. Probably the most popular sport is sailing on the lake, for which there are 20 boats looked after by former German sailors. There is a stables and riding school, but the parents are expected to help to pay for the riding and make a small contribution towards the sailing. Lots of games are played and teams compete with the only other British boarding school in Germany, the Prince Rupert School at Wilhelmshaven.

HOWEVER, most of our boys and girls in Germany go every day by bus to smaller schools than this, in the districts where they live.

We need hardly say that the German language is a popular subject with every pupil, for there are plenty of opportunities at hand for practising it!

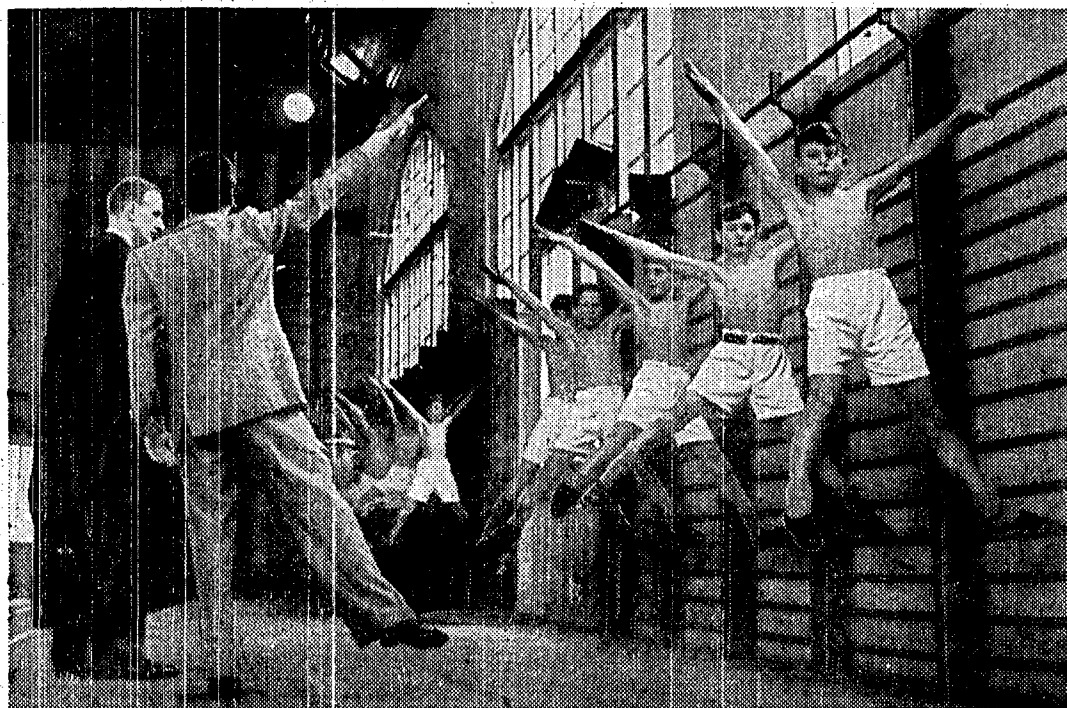
All these British schools in Germany are under the authority of the Ministry of Education, though their teachers are paid by the Foreign Office.



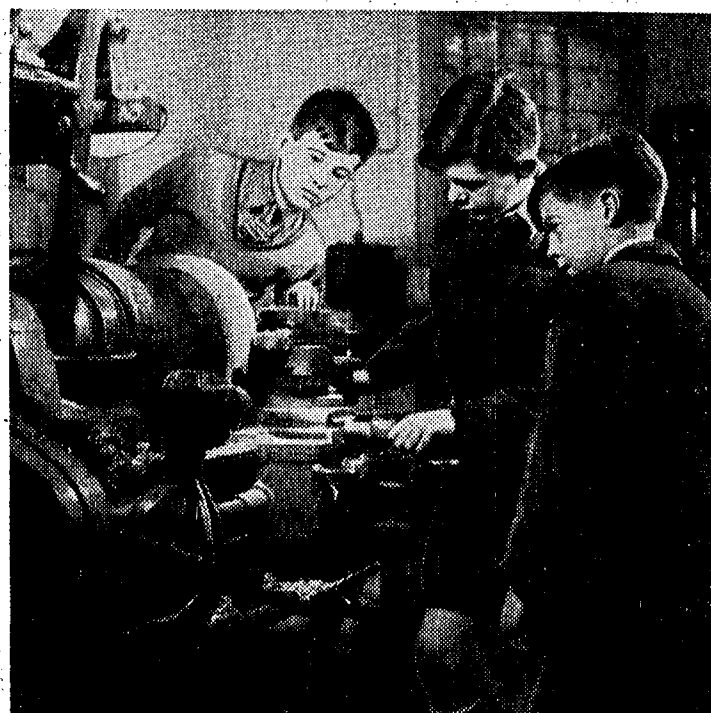
Hans Schuller, the German music teacher at Bielefeld British School, conducts an "orchestral-choir"



Pupils arrive in the school bus at a Secondary school



The Headmaster of Hamburg School visits the gym



In the machine shop of the British School, Hamburg





### Learning the Ropes

Young sea cadets of the Girls' Nautical Training Corps gather round an instructor to learn about the rigging of the model of the English Rose, the training ship at Poole in Dorset.

## Are You a Phillumenist?

THE phillumenists have just held an exhibition of their hobby and art in London. The exhibition was staged by the Matchbox Label and Booklet Society and revealed the widespread interest in this collecting hobby, as well as the immense variety of designs for matchbox labels.

The formidable name of "phillumenist" which these collectors have adopted, is derived from the Greek word philos and the Latin word lumen, and means "light-loving" or "lovers of light." For over a hundred years the devotees of this hobby were known as "vulcanites," and later as "labelists"; phillumenist is of more recent coinage.

### Removing the Labels

Labels are usually mounted in loose-leaf albums. They are soaked off the boxes, dried face downwards on blotting paper, and then mounted on transparent hinges and classified under the names of the countries of origin. Booklet match covers are kept separately, this being a particularly popular hobby in America, where there are said to be a quarter of a million collectors.

There are several societies of collectors, and a magazine is specially produced for their benefit. King Chulalongkorn of Siam (1853-1910) had an ornately-ornamented collection of several thousands, and actually appointed an official "Keeper of the Royal Collection."

## BIRDS ON THE FARMER'S SIDE

THE British Field Sports Society has done a real service to the bird world by publishing a pamphlet, *Predatory Birds of Great Britain* (3s).

Too often the farmer and the gamekeeper are guilty of shooting on sight such birds as the barn owl, the tawny owl, and the kestrel under the belief that they are harmful. On the contrary these birds must be numbered among the farmer's greatest friends because they prey on mice, moles, and insects which cause considerable damage to crops and stores every year; their usefulness far outweighs any damage they do.

The earliest labels, which appeared in 1829, merely described the contents of the box and the way to use them, together with the maker's name. But in 1830 appeared what was probably the first illustrated label, and since then the range of design has covered sports, history, flowers, birds, animals, fishes, famous men and women, mythology, folk-lore, fairy stories, and inventions.

### A Universal Practice

The list of designs is almost unending, and they come from all over the world. Sweden alone is said to have issued over 40,000 different labels since Johan Edward Lundstrom's first factory started in 1844.

In Britain the Great Exhibition of 1851 appeared on a label, as did the invention of the bicycle, the 1874 Arctic expedition, and Mr Gladstone's Midlothian Campaign in 1885. Austria has produced an animal series, circus scenes, and a multi-coloured set from Grimm's Fairy Tales. Australia has had sets of cricketers, breeds of dogs, and Safety First slogans, while a Philippines issue depicted the Boy Scout Movement.

Probably the most popular set ever issued was the Nurseryland set from Sweden; it showed scenes from 60 famous nursery rhymes, and every complete collection sent to the firm was mounted free in an appropriate album.

Other birds which the pamphlet mentions specially in this connection include the harrier, the pretty and diminutive insect-eating hobby, the short-eared owl which rids the countryside of voles, the osprey which preys on fish, and the buzzard.

The truth is that most birds are the farmer's feathered friends. There are exceptions, like the common wood-pigeon, which feeds on grain. The blackbird, the bullfinch, and the starling are also grain-feeders; but these do far more than earn their keep because of the harmful caterpillars, larvae, and insects they consume.

## FAREWELL TO FRANK

FRANK SWIFT, the genial giant who for 15 years has been one of the greatest football favourites in Britain, has decided to retire. He will guard England's goal during the forthcoming Continental tour, but he played his last game in this country last Saturday.

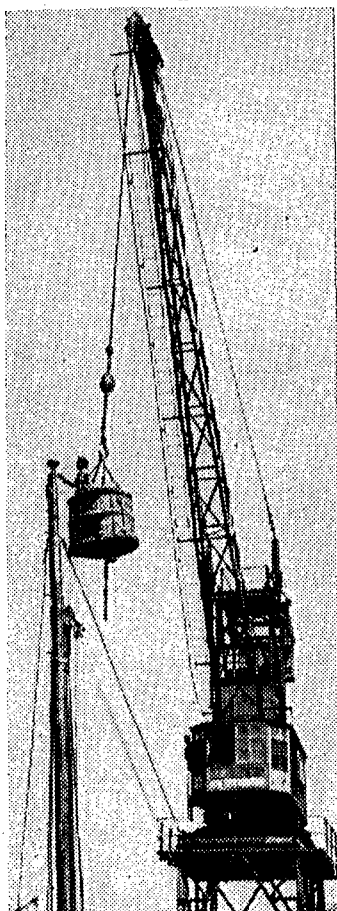
Frank's farewell to football will be regretted by the millions who have been thrilled by his wonderful goalkeeping; and by all the players he has played with or against; for he is a sportsman to the tips of his great fingers.

Frank Swift was a boatman at Blackpool, his birthplace, before he aspired to football fame. After playing in goal for Blackpool junior sides, he assisted Fleetwood, and it was then that he first attracted the notice of Manchester City.

In April, 1933, as a mere lad on the ground staff, he watched Manchester City lose the Cup Final to Everton. Twelve months later, he returned to Wembley as Manchester City's goalkeeper in the Cup Final against Portsmouth, having been promoted to first team duty only a few months before. The City won and Frank Swift showed not a trace of nerves, until—when the players hurried from the field to receive the Cup, and their medals, they saw him lying stretched out in the goalmouth. He had fainted from sheer nervous exhaustion!

Now, fifteen years later, but only thirty-four, Frank Swift is retiring with every honour the game has to offer, including, to date, thirty English international caps. We shall miss his big, genial figure on the football field, but players and spectators alike will wish him all that is best in his new career.

### Topping Job!



When the mast of a tug needed repairing this Cape Town dock worker found the easiest way was to be suspended in a basket from a crane.

## The Editor's Table

### WHERE PEACE BEGINS

THE Prime Minister said a true word to the Teachers' Conference when he commented on the need for the schools of our land to be centres of citizenship training. "War," he said, "started in the minds of men. It was up to the teachers to see that peace was built on a sound foundation in the minds of children."

We are fortunate that in our schools there is a devoted company of fine men and women dedicated to the tasks the Prime Minister spoke of. "A good teacher," he said, "would make up for bad buildings; a bad teacher would do no good whatever in the best building." Even though classes are too large, and buildings in many places bad, the spirit of Britain's teachers still triumphs over the difficulties which many of them have had to face all their working lives.

THEY hold the future of Britain in their keeping, and have the making of peace in their hands; and now that children stay at school until they are at least fifteen, teachers have a finer chance of influencing developing minds in the constructive building of the ideas of peace.

These ideas include knowledge of other countries and other people. Our children should see the world in their classrooms through the aid of films, pictures, books, and radio. If they can meet children of other nations in their schools and homes, all the better. What children learn in school about the world and its peoples usually remains with them for the rest of life. These lessons mould their outlook and help to decide their opinions later on.

Peace is more than the period between wars; it is a way of life. If the youth of the nations know each other there is more chance of a permanent peace. If schoolchildren have their minds directed to the humanity of men instead of their cruelty, to their love for one another instead of their hatreds, the seeds of peace are well and truly sown.

FROM such a wise sowing will a harvest of friendship and understanding ultimately be reaped.

### Merry Month

GOLD May and windy,  
Barn fillet up finely.

If you would the doctor pay,  
Leave your flannels off in May.

A DRY May and a dripping June  
Bring all things in tune.

AMONG the changing months  
May stands confessed,  
The sweetest and in fairest  
colours dressed.

HE who laughs in May  
Drives all care away.  
Old Time May Sayings

## THE NEW PARTNERSHIP

SOME of us may hope that we shall not see on our examination papers the request: Define the constitutional position of the former Dominion of India.

For India is planning to be an independent Republic, but will continue to be a full member of the British Commonwealth of Nations, and accepts the King as the symbol of the free association of the independent member nations.

It may sound rather confusing, but it is really quite simple. What is of historic importance is that India, though a republic, has chosen to be a partner with the other nations of the Commonwealth, who are all bound together in a permanent agreement to help one another; having the same kind of democratic government in their own lands, and all pursuing the same ideals of peace, liberty, and progress.

Never before has a great Empire resolved itself into such an association of free nations in partnership, and we British people may feel a pardonable pride that this new thing in human history evolved from us.

### Standing Together

THE role of the British Commonwealth as a great striver for peace was emphasised in a recent broadcast by the Prime Minister of Australia.

He declared: "... The British Commonwealth in common with the United States and France, together with all truly democratic nations, has striven unceasingly in the last four years to bring about a lasting peace for the entire world. At the same time the democracies have stood firmly together in making clear to any aggressive-minded nation that all will support each other in the event of unprovoked attack. The Atlantic Pact is evidence of this determination."

## Under the E

PETER PUCK  
WANTS TO KNOW

If brunettes can  
share the fun of  
the Fair



THE finest tomatoes are usually grown in a greenhouse. Or in the imagination.

NO licences for opening new sweet shops can be entertained. What sort of entertainment do they expect?

CHILDREN are encouraged to save something for a rainy day. How about a mackintosh?

LEWISHAM wants a Meals on Wheels service for old people. To make the food go round.

A MAN has been asking the best way to make a garden walk. Depends on its number of feet.

A MA should



## Their Baptism of Fire

THE gallant behaviour of boys in HMS Amethyst, which was treacherously fired on by Communists in the Yangtse River, has been praised by the Admiralty.

These lads could have had little inkling of danger when their ship sailed up the wide river to take the place of another warship at Nanking. Britain is neutral in the Chinese civil war, her ships had the right to sail up the Yangtse, and the Union Jack was painted prominently on her hull.

Yet when she was about 60 miles from Nanking, Communist gunners began firing at her. The boys heard the crash of shells in their vessel and saw their comrades falling about them. It was their baptism of fire—and it was completely unexpected.

This was enough to shake any lad's nerve, but these boys behaved with superb courage and discipline. They upheld the finest traditions of the Royal Navy.

Britain, and Britain's youth, is proud of them.

## N-ICE IDEA

FIVE schoolchildren may be served with dishes of ice cream this summer instead of the usual morning bottle of milk, states Mr Thomas Robertson, Anstruther area sanitary inspector, in his annual report. The public he says, and especially children, are becoming very "ice-cream minded," and he suggests a campaign to raise the standard of hygiene in the manufacture and distribution of ice cream. Five schoolchildren will no doubt cheer Mr Robertson's suggestion to the echo.

## JUST AN IDEA

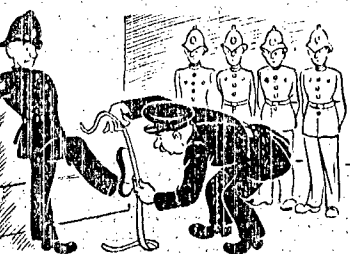
As William Hazlitt wrote, There is a greatness of soul that is superior to all the brilliancy of the understanding.

## Editor's Table

A NEW type of dress can be worn back to front. It will serve its turn.

A SHOPKEEPER says alarm clocks go like hot cakes. More useful if they go like alarm clocks.

FISH and chips in the country spoil the smell of hay, someone says. And perhaps hay spoils the smell of fish and chips.



IN wants to know what is the average of policemen's feet. Thinks they have a measured tread.

## THINGS SAID

I THINK that in the long run our economic recovery will depend on the education and training of our people more than on any other single factor.

*The Minister of Education*

THE finest dumpling apple in the world is the Bramley Seedling. The best Bramley Seedling is English. England is therefore the source of the best apple dumplings in the world.

*Viscount Bledisloe*

SHAKESPEARE might conceivably have lived 20 or 30 years longer if more vegetables had been eaten in his day.

*The Bishop of Truro*

THE general accuracy of weather forecasts has been 85 to 88 per cent in the last few years.

*Secretary of State for Air*

SOME children are born to be dukes and some dustmen. That is right, but the stork is an unintelligent bird and often leaves children at the wrong addresses. We have to sort out some of the stork's mistakes.

*The Home Secretary*

## Adventurers Wanted

FIELD-MARSHAL SLIM has called the nation's youth to adventure. If they are true to their national tradition, he says, they will be adventurers because they have adventure in their blood.

A similar call to the merchants and traders of Britain was given recently by the President of the Board of Trade. Much of Britain's past greatness was won by trading adventurers, and they are wanted again, particularly on the North American continent where Britain must win new markets.

This call to rise up and conquer in a peaceful manner is a call to the youth of our land. They have the energy, the initiative, and the talents for this task.

## AMBASSADORS ALL

SOME people still declare that international cricket serves no good purpose. Victor Richardson, famous Australian cricketer of yore, thinks that it is a good grounding for public life. A captain, he says, who has travelled overseas gains a tremendous amount of common-sense and diplomacy.

Truly, the Bradmans, Hammonds, Yardleys, and Manns, and all who played under them abroad, were ambassadors, on and off the field. And more will follow.

King Cricket knows no politics. He exudes the spirit of fairness, and of all that is best in the game of life; true sportsmanship, the team spirit, unselfishness, courage, tact, and modesty—qualities desirable in international as well as national life.

## THE MEASURE OF A MAN

WERE I so tall to reach the pole,  
Or grasp the ocean with my span,  
I must be measured by my soul,  
The mind's the standard of the man.

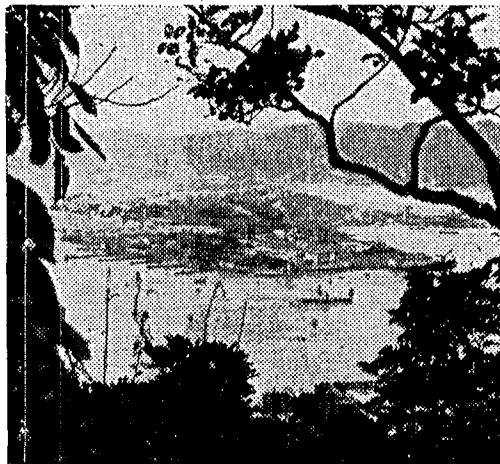
*Isaac Watts*

# A Far East Haven of Peace

"AGAINST the sombre background of China we find Hong Kong a haven of prosperity and peace," said Mr David Rees-Williams the other day when welcoming to London on behalf of the Government a trade mission from the colony.

"We intend to do our utmost," he added, "to maintain Hong Kong as a peaceful haven of refuge from oppression, as a great centre of trade, and as a cultural and educational beacon—in short,

between that and the mainland the vast blue harbour with ships from all parts of the world at your feet, and the brown-sailed junks fluttering like butterflies from flower to flower.



A glimpse of Hong Kong Harbour

as the clearing house of commerce and the shop window of democracy in the Far East."

Last year, a 70-year-old Chinese inhabitant of Hong Kong Colony asked in surprise: "How can the English do all this to a barren rock in just my lifetime, while in China no place has been made like this in 4000 years."

The British have been in Hong Kong for rather more than one man's lifetime, for it was in January 1841 that the island was ceded by China to Britain, and in August 1842 the fact was confirmed by the Treaty of Nanking.

The island of Hong Kong, at the mouth of the Canton River, is about 11 miles long and has an area of about 32 square miles. However, later acquisitions on the mainland, part on 99 years' lease, brought the area of the Colony up to 391 square miles.

A trade boom came to Hong Kong last year, and it became one of the greatest Trade Clearing Houses in the world. Imports and exports rose by half over the previous year. This astonishing increase in trade is due to the fact that Hong Kong is surrounded by countries ravaged by the war against Japan, but has herself speedily recovered from her occupation by the Japanese from 1941 to 1945.

## An Oasis

These neighbouring countries are now suffering because of the difficulties created by the present spread of Communism. Thus Hong Kong is an oasis of political and financial steadiness in an area of confusion and great need. Trading restrictions are few in number, and banking and shipping arrangements are superior to any to be found in the Far East.

There is a beautiful, natural deep-water harbour, which for two years after the war was made the Headquarters of the British Pacific Fleet. It is indeed a magnificent sight to stand at the top of Hong Kong's famous "Peak" and look down upon the island; below, the clean, orderly buildings of Victoria City;

# GRANARY INTO THEATRE

AFTER being used for over a century as a granary salvage depot and wine store Britain's second oldest theatre, The Royal, at Richmond, Yorkshire, is to be reopened by the Town Council as a playhouse in a few weeks' time.

In this theatre, which was built in 1788, Edmund Kean and Sarah Siddons once played, stepping straight from their dressing rooms on to the stage. In those days Mrs Siddons shared her room with other ladies of the company, and they all made-up by candlelight.

Some theatrical performances were given in the Royal soon after it was re-discovered, four years ago, and the stage was then on the same level as the rest of the building. Since then, however, the floor, which suffered from dry rot, has been taken up and in the process the original layout of the stage was traced. It is now being raised and restored. The tiny pay-box is still at the entrance, and the paintwork on the wooden panels that decorate the gallery and boxes can still be seen in places.

# Oil From the Bed of a Lake

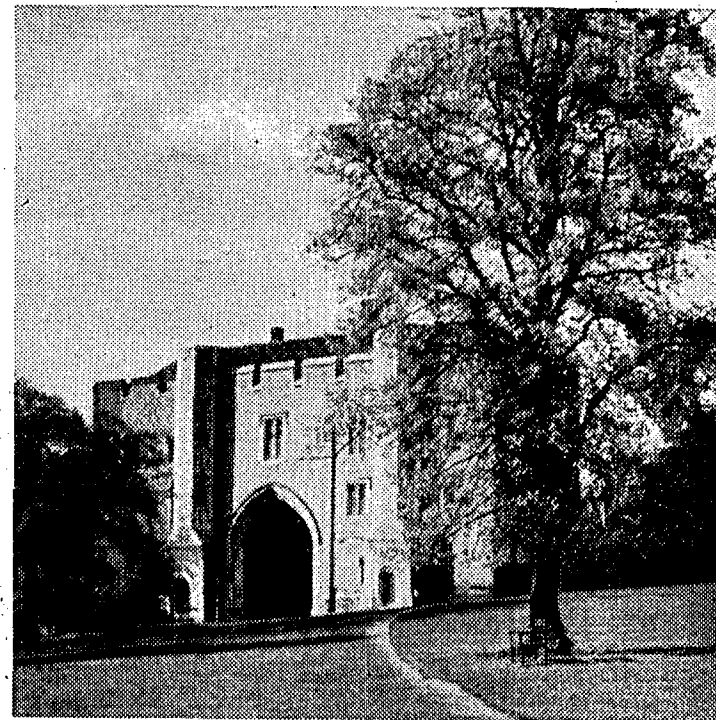
SPECIAL boats are being built in this country to take oil-drilling gear out into Lake Maracaibo in Venezuela where oil-drilling is to be carried out in the bed of the lake.

This huge lake, 137 miles long and 75 wide, has an outlet to the sea by a channel that connects the lake with the Gulf of Maracaibo. The water of the lake is fresh in the upper parts but becomes brackish where the tidal influence from the sea is felt.

The Venezuelan Oil Concessions intend to drill for oil 24 miles out from the shore of the lake. The six launches British shipbuilders are constructing for the project are made of aluminium alloy, in order to withstand the storms that arise in the lake. Each launch, 53 feet long, will carry 20 men and oil-drilling equipment.

## Treasure Island

Hong Kong offers safe storage for goods and security for investments in this troubled quarter of the world. Money is safe here and the Colony provides one of the greatest and most efficient clearing houses for trade in the world. Through this island on the South Coast of China passes the treasure of many countries. It is, indeed, a Treasure Island.



THIS ENGLAND The Abbey Gatehouse, now part of St Albans School, Hertfordshire



## How Long Do They Live?

OLD age should be jolly for Polly de Rolli, a 54-year-old Los Angeles parrot, for her late owner left her £75, and directed that she be entrusted "to someone who will be kind to her." Polly de Rolli can look forward to another 50 years or so of life, for, like the golden eagle and the raven, the parrot is a bird centenarian.

There is a wide range in the expectation of life among living things. Bears, lions, and men, for example, live to be about the same age; the may-fly, on the other hand, lives only for a few days and often dies within 24 hours. The alligator is only a youngster at 100 years—he has another 800 or 900 years to go—and the crocodile keeps hale and hearty for 300 years or more.

It will surprise many people to learn that a sparrow lives for about 40 years, and that the swan reaches the grand old age of 150. How about the elephant? Well, sometimes he is "not out" at a century, but normally he averages 75 years.

### A Dog's Life

What about pets and domestic animals? The cat's expectation of life is about 15 years, though there are cases on record of cats living to the age of 30—just over 3 years for each of their "nine lives." The average life of a dog is 15 years, a cow 25 years, and a horse between 25 and 30 years.

Pigs will often exceed 20 years of age, but five years is a fair average for a rabbit. Snakes usually die unmourned in their tenth year, but a tortoise may live 300 years or more. Perhaps that is why they take life so leisurely!

Among fish, carp live up to 200 years at least. At the other end of the scale are snails, with two and a half years, mice and squirrels, six years, and nightingales, 12 years. Toads have fairly lengthy lives—40 years.

The whale, however, is believed to be the longest-lived creature in existence today. Experts differ on the subject, but 1000 years is the estimated life of these giants of the sea.



Born 147 years ago in Sweden, John Ericsson was always watching fish, and learned that they moved by pushing against the water with their tails.

## Pioneers



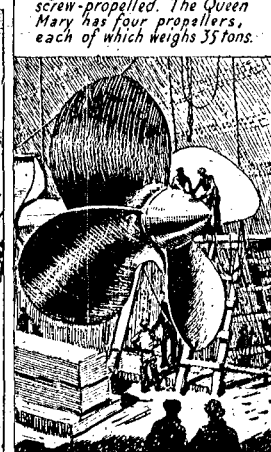
"Why cannot we move ships like that?" he thought. So he made a propeller with curved blades like the curves of the tail of a fish.

## 2. JOHN ERICSSON and his screw propeller



In 1836 he fitted such a propeller to the Francis B. Ogden, a 45-ft. steamboat, which towed a barge carrying Admiralty officials down the Thames. This was the first screw-propelled steamship.

Ericsson's invention was one of the greatest in shipbuilding. Nearly all ships are screw-propelled. The Queen Mary has four propellers, each of which weighs 35 tons.



## THE BOY WHO SAVED A ROMAN VILLA

ONE of the strange results of the war was the great increase in our knowledge of ancient Britain. This came about because airfields and other military installations sometimes had to be laid out on places where there were prehistoric burial mounds and other remains of the distant past, and this involved digging them up. Yet a careful record of them was carried out, in the midst of wartime speed and urgency, by skilled archaeologists employed by the Ministry of Works.

Something of what they found is described in the booklet, *War and Archaeology* (Stationery Office, 1s 6d). Altogether 103 prehistoric burial mounds were excavated, sketched, and photographed before they were covered in or destroyed.

The booklet tells of a resourceful schoolboy who played an important part in work something like this. He belonged to St Albans in Hertfordshire, and one day in 1943 he passed some gravel-diggers and noticed with curiosity that, in their shallow pit, they were pulling down something that looked like the remains of a very old house. The thought flashed through his mind that this might be a Roman villa, for he knew that nearby were the remains of the Roman city of Verulamium.

He told the gravel-diggers what he thought, but they seemed not to be interested. The boy acted quickly. He dashed off as hard as he could go to the Verulamium Museum in St Albans and breathlessly told what he had seen.

As a result of that schoolboy's foresight and prompt action the demolition of the villa was delayed until it could be excavated under an archaeologist's care.

It was found to be quite a small house, built of stone, and under its floors were found remains which showed that other people had lived on the site before the coming of the Romans, for the floors of primitive huts and strange pits were discovered. These earlier inhabitants were Belgae, themselves invaders, and the harshness of their domination was revealed by a grim relic, an iron slave manacle found in one of the pits.

Their huts had been built of wattle and daub, but at the end of the first century A.D. the first stone house was built. It was completely rebuilt about A.D. 300. Some 67 years later it was burnt down by German raiders. Oddly enough, in February 1944, two German incendiary bombs fell into the cellar of the villa and burnt themselves out.

Of all the archaeological discoveries, however, the most important was made at Heathrow, in Middlesex, now London Airport, where the site of a little Celtic temple was unearthed. Pottery found there dated from, perhaps, 300 B.C.

## A Great Story of Adventure

ON this page next week we hope to give the first instalment of a picture version of *Round the World in Eighty Days*, by Jules Verne.

When this romantic story first appeared in 1873 the world was amazed at the mere suggestion that such a journey could be made in so short a time! But, less than eighty years afterward, the newspaper headlines tell us that a few men have flown round the world non-stop in four days and then the amazing fact is all but forgotten.

This is an age of haste and a flying traveller sees little of the people in the countries he visits or passes over. But Jules Verne's travellers had ample time to study the people—and to find adventure among them!

*Round the World in Eighty Days* is a story which moves; the scene is ever-changing and it is ideally suited for presentation in picture form. Do not miss it!

Make sure of receiving your CN regularly by giving a firm order to your newsagent. It will save disappointment.

## His Teams Get Promotion

A RECORD without parallel has just been set up in the football world.

In 1939 Newport County won promotion from the Third Division to the Second Division of the Football League; in 1947 their neighbours, Cardiff City, gained the same honour; the end of the season just completed saw Swansea Town, another Welsh club, climb into the Second Division. And the manager of each of these clubs at the time of their promotion was an Irishman, William McCandless!

McCandless was a wonderful left-back during many years of first-class football. He was capped on eight occasions for Ireland, and he also won League Championship and Scottish Cup medals with Glasgow Rangers. But his success as a manager has been phenomenal.

Billy McCandless has amazing ability to lead the players under his command. He has a quiet, confident manner, and, though always ready to praise success, never apportion blame for failure. It is this friendly, human outlook towards his players that has enabled him to take three clubs to the top of Division Three and thus into a higher class.

## ANCIENT BAHIA

THE citizens of Bahia, during the past few weeks, have been celebrating the fourth centenary of the founding of their city.

If you do not know the city by this name you may have heard of it by its second name of Sao Salvador. Bahia, or Sao Salvador, is one of the oldest cities in the New World. Settled in 1510, in the year 1549 Bahia became the capital of Brazil and remained so until 1763. With a population today of nearly 370,000 Bahia is the third largest city of Brazil.

The Brazilians call it "the city of churches," for it has no fewer than 365, and although most of the city is modern it also has some beautiful and picturesque old buildings as well.

## Final Instalment of Rob Roy, Sir Walter Scott's Great Romantic Story



In his fight with Rob Roy, Rashleigh fell mortally wounded. Then Rob Roy told Frank: "You have nothing to fear. I must look after those who have. Farewell!" He hurried away with Di and her father. Within half an hour Rashleigh died. Frank was now the undisputed owner of Osbaldistone Hall, for he found that the charge of high treason was just another of Rashleigh's plots to dispossess him.



Diana and her father escaped to France by ship. Frank returned to London where he learned this news in a letter from Diana herself; it was brought to him by a French gentleman coming to England on business. But this gentleman also told Frank that Diana, in accordance with her father's wishes, had entered a convent. Poor Frank, who loved Diana, was terribly downcast at the thought of never seeing her again.



Then came the news that Diana's father was ill, and that although she had entered the convent, she had not yet taken the veil as a nun, her father having left it to her to decide whether she would take this irrevocable step. Sir Frederick Vernon died, and Diana, who had received earnest letters from Frank, decided not to become a nun. She returned to England to marry Frank, with his father's blessing.



As for Rob Roy, he continued to "maintain order" in his part of the Highlands, around Loch Lomond—and doing it so well, in this turbulent region, that the Government more or less turned a blind eye to his activities. He was feared by the rich and loved by the poor. Eventually he was pardoned by the Government. After a life of desperate adventure, this Robin Hood of Scotland enjoyed a peaceful old age.

A Picture-Version of *Round the World in Eighty Days*, Jules Verne's Thrilling Adventure Story, Begins Next Week



The Children's Newspaper, May 14, 1949

## Our Holiday Trains

IN spite of the continuing shortage of steel and coal, the summer train services of British Railways are to be an improvement on last year's, and will continue for a week longer—until September 25.

One of the 13 new named trains this summer is appropriately called The Pines Express, for it will run from Manchester to Bournemouth. Among the others are: The Capitals Limited, between King's Cross and Edinburgh; The White Rose, between King's Cross and Leeds and Bradford; The Granite City, between Glasgow and Aberdeen; and The Irishman, between Glasgow and Stranraer Harbour.

There will be 930 more passenger carriages and 167 more locomotives. Passenger trains every week will cover 300,431 more miles than last year.

More cross-country expresses will by-pass London, and at weekends several expresses to the west will start from Ealing Broadway, and to the Kent Coast from Blackheath, Bromley South, and Herne Hill.

A number of main line trains are to be speeded up, for example a journey from Exeter to Waterloo will be shorter by 37 minutes.

There will also be more non-stop expresses, the longest being that of the 10 a.m. train from Euston to Glasgow, 401½ miles.

Stations are to be brighter: 1166 in London and the Provinces will be completely repainted.

## UGLY & MAGNIFICENT

THE beautiful Italian city of Florence is this summer celebrating the 500th birthday of its greatest son, Lorenzo the Magnificent, who ruled the city in the 15th century. The celebrations were begun the other day with a procession through the ancient streets to lay a wreath on Lorenzo's tomb, which is under a sculptured group by Michael Angelo in the church of San Lorenzo.

Lorenzo belonged to the powerful Medici family, whose name is linked for ever with this city on the River Arno. They were merchant princes who rose from



Lorenzo the Magnificent

being simple traders to a position of fabulous wealth. In Lorenzo's day Florence was a city-state, nominally a republic but actually ruled by the Medici family.

As a boy Lorenzo sat at his grandfather's table listening to the talk of Italy's greatest

scholars. The lad was taught Latin, Greek, philosophy, and science. He read Dante in his spare time and wrote poems in his native Tuscan tongue. He was also what we should call "good at games," and excelled at gymnastics, fencing, and horsemanship. He had a natural fearlessness and the instincts of a born leader. But there Nature's gifts stopped. For had he lived in our time people would have said he was "nothing to look at."

In fact he was downright plain. He had a nose with which the portrait-painters did their best, but which was everything that a nose should not be. He could not even use it, for he had no sense of smell. Young Lorenzo, however, was philosophical about his appearance; and as to his nose, he once said that he had heard there are many more things offending the sense of smell than pleasing it—which in medieval Florence was probably very true!

At twenty he became the ruler of Florence, and history says he was a tyrant. But the world has forgotten his faults and remembered him for his wonderful generosity to sculptors, painters, scholars, and writers.

He wanted Florence to be the greatest home of art and scholarship in the world. He established Greek professors there; he had men searching all Europe for treasures for Florence. He allowed art students free access to his gardens to study the statues he had collected.

One day he saw an apprentice lad copying a fawn's head there. Struck by the boy's work, Lorenzo took him to live and work in his own home. That boy became the immortal Michael Angelo. Another immortal encouraged by Lorenzo was Leonardo da Vinci; and Botticelli, Ghirlandaio, Piero de Cosimo, Verrocchio were all known to the rich young ruler.

### Princely Generosity

Lorenzo was also renowned for his princely generosity. Never could he bear to send a present that was not worth three times the one he had received—and strange were the presents he sometimes received. Once the citizens of Florence were astounded to see a giraffe and a lion being led through their streets—presents from the Sultan of Egypt.

Lorenzo's magnificence mainly affected other people, for he himself lived a simple life, and encouraged his children to do the same. He exhorted them to be humble at heart, and said that possessions like a few rare antiques and fine books gave more distinction than silk and jewels. He told them to eat plain food and take plenty of exercise. Above all, he urged, "Get up early in the morning... Before you go to bed consider the morrow's task, so that nothing can take you unawares."

Whatever his failings, Lorenzo drew into one town more beauty and ideals than any other man even in an epoch of princely patrons of art.

## FACTS ABOUT YOUR SHOES

### The Style and Fit

Feet are as varied as faces: they may be very slim or very broad irrespective of length.

Because of this, Clarks shoes, from the smallest sizes to the largest, are made in

many different widths. That is why

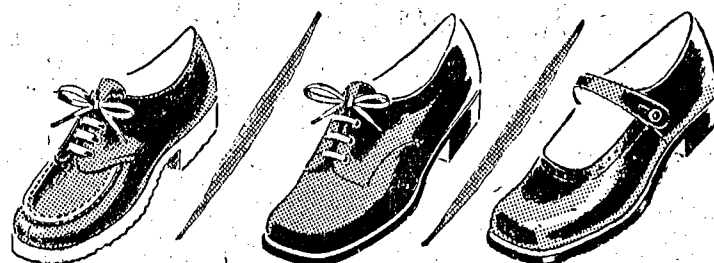
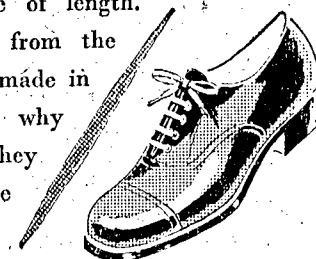
Clarks shoes are not sold until they

have been correctly fitted at the

shop. You can tell a genuine

Clarks shoe by the name

stamped on the sole.



# Clarks CHILDREN'S SHOES

## The CN 100-PRIZE Puzzle

- 50 Splendid Wrist or Pocket Watches
- 50 Choose-For-Yourself Awards

What well-known actions are illustrated in Set No 3 of our 100-Prize Puzzle? If you are taking part in this competition you will have already noted your answers for the first twelve pictures in the series—now name as correctly as you can the actions illustrated here, then wait for the fourth and final set!

FIFTY NEW WATCHES are to be awarded as prizes in this competition—either wrist or pocket type, according to choice. Besides, there will be a further fifty prizes which winners will be able to select for themselves. And there is NO entry fee.

Remember, the complete competition consists of twenty-four pictures. To help you, this list includes all the correct answers for this week's action-pictures.

Serving at tennis, Sawing, Riding a bicycle, Pulling a rope, Carrying a tray, Blowing a trumpet, Riding a horse, Playing darts, Walking a tightrope, Drinking, Driving a car.

NO ENTRIES ARE TO BE SENT IN YET. Keep your answers until next week and then send in the answers to all four sets together.

This competition is open for all under 17, and will be judged in two age classes—those under 11 and the 11s and over—the prizes being allotted proportionately between the two groups. Remember, you must find the answers for yourself—your parent or guardian will be asked to sign your entry as all your own work when you send it in.

When the time comes each reader may send only one attempt; it must be accompanied by a signed coupon. This coupon will be given next week with the last set, together with full rules and sending-in directions.

The Editor's decision will be final and legally binding in all matters to do with this competition. No correspondence. Children of CN employees must not compete.

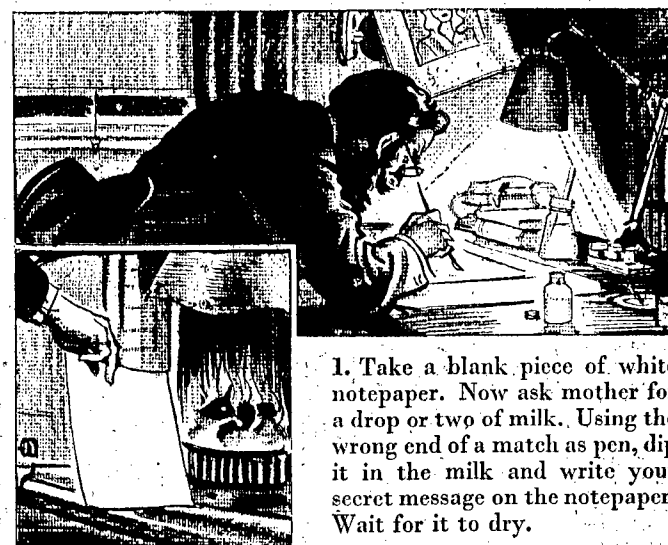
### What Are They Doing?



Final Set Next Week!

## TRICK TIME for Rowntree's Gumsters

### How spies write secrets . . .



1. Take a blank piece of white notepaper. Now ask mother for a drop or two of milk. Using the wrong end of a match as pen, dip it in the milk and write your secret message on the notepaper. Wait for it to dry.

2. When the milk has completely dried and the paper looks quite blank, give it to a friend to heat in front of the fire. The message you have written will mysteriously re-appear.

\*Idea! Lots of gumsters who suck Rowntree's Fruit Gums at homework-time make one packet last a whole week. You try it. What a whopping 2½d. worth Rowntree's Fruit Gums are!





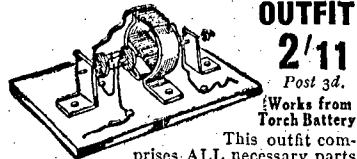
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Bond Street, London, 1830

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The Leading Nature Magazine

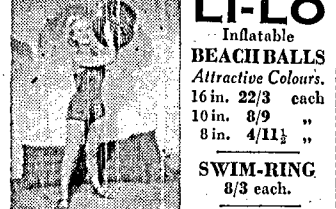
## THE SPRING NUMBER

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Every child will want to read about the new Young Naturalists' Club.

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Attractive Colours.  
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## A REGIMENT RETURNS HOME

WHEN the City of London's own regiment, the Royal Fusiliers, formally parades at the Tower of London on May 15, the troops will be celebrating the return to their historic home after 264 years.

The regiment was raised there by Lord Dartmouth to fight for King James II as long ago as 1685. Only once since then have men of the regiment visited the Tower—in 1935, when they mounted guard to celebrate the regiment's 250th anniversary.

Their recent return "home" to the Tower from Hounslow began in April when lorries laden with furniture and records rolled into London. Fifty men arrived first as an "advance guard" for the rest of their comrades.

The Royal Fusiliers, who served with distinction in the two world wars and took part in various campaigns of the 18th and 19th centuries, owe their name to a firearm called the "fusil"—a flint-lock gun.

Its introduction in the late 17th century led to the formation of a new regiment trained in the use of fusils. Men recruited from regular troops garrisoned at the Tower formed the first two companies.

## Princess Margaret in Shakespeare's Italy

PRINCESS MARGARET will have the pleasure of visiting the scene of no fewer than eleven of Shakespeare's plays during her holiday in Italy.

All's Well that Ends Well has scenes in 14th-century Italy, and Anthony and Cleopatra is in part played out in Rome, as is the case with Coriolanus and Julius Caesar. The Merchant of Venice has that city and Portia's home at Belmont for setting; Much Ado about Nothing is centred in Messina; Venice (and Cyprus) witness Othello's tragic story; Verona and Mantua that of Romeo and Juliet; while the Taming of the Shrew, Titus Andronicus, and the Two Gentlemen of Verona illustrate Italian life of bygone ages in Padua, the Roman neighbourhood, and Verona and Milan. The Winter's Tale might be added, for it has Sicily as part of its background.

Whichever of these storied scenes Princess Margaret visits, the play associated with it will from then on have an entirely new and lasting fascination for her.

## HOLIDAYS & DOGS

THERE were 2,750,000 licensed dogs in England, Scotland, and Wales last year. It would be interesting to know how many of their owners deny themselves a holiday each year because they cannot take their dogs with them and have no one to look after them while they are away.

The Canine Defence League has produced a leaflet containing the names of nearly 400 boarding-houses and hotels in all parts of the country where dogs are today accepted as guests with their owners. The leaflet will be sent free to all inquirers, but an addressed envelope bearing a penny stamp would be appreciated. The address of the National Canine Defence League is 8 Clifford Street, London, W.1.

## This Summer of Art

### ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION

WITH masterpieces on loan from Munich at the National Gallery, and from Vienna at the Tate, picture lovers are well served in London this summer. Yet admiration for what is old and established will not detract from the British painting of today and the Royal Academy Exhibition will retain its deserved popularity.

Here once again are most of the old familiar faces; the strings of horses painted by the outgoing President, Sir Arthur Munnings, whose touch is as firm as ever; the portraits of celebrities as large as life and as impressive; the landscapes and farms and dwellings of this old and pleasant land; and, not least nor last, the pictures of children scattered like daisies and buttercups over the green pastures.

### Charming Children

Children and women first—let us begin with the children. Here in the very first room are Sheila, and Rosemary in her party frock, and opposite, the fisher-boy who is more concerned with his rations than his attire; and Children Resting, drawn by the late Francis Dodd, who loved them.

In Gallery III, where all the important people and important canvases are, we come to what is named, by T. C. Dugdale, Conversation Piece—between Mamma, Baby, and the Black Kitten with yellow eyes.

Here, too, are some of Mr Winston Churchill's earlier paintings, one of a lake near Brescia and one of Sunset at Templeton, Roehampton, and both delicate and gracious; and also John Gunn's portrait—the most interesting in the Exhibition—of Lord Goddard, the Lord Chief Justice whose judgments are always front-page news and whose face, so shrewd, so acute, and yet with a gleam of humour is, above all, so just. But we cannot take leave without enjoying Sir W. Russell Flint's Spanish Dance and his more sober Victorian Diversion; and many a boy will cast a longing, lingering glance at The White Barque, by Peter Wood.

### Baby's Bathtime

So they will also when presently they come to the model yachts in the Round Pond at Kensington. For their part, girls will linger before Baby's Bath-time, which seems to have taken place in rather narrow quarters.

Among other pictures that appealed to the CN critic were Low Tide at Chelsea; Battersea Sands; and one of Mr Spence-Lay's miniature paintings of early Victorian trifles which he modestly entitles "A part of my Stock in Trade." Some future day this junk of his so delightfully portrayed here may become a museum piece.

Lastly we bid farewell to a most entertaining, and even charming, show with a bow to the lively Fête des Saintes Maries, held in the far South of France. It is full of light and colour, of gaiety, and of plety as well—an enchanting work.

## RHODESIAN FREE

We will send you **ABSOLUTELY FREE** this lovely green and black stamp which shows our Royal Princesses (Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret Rose). This beautiful stamp was only issued in April 1947, to commemorate the Royal Visit to Southern Rhodesia.



This attractive stamp and historical souvenir was on issue for a very short time only and is now scarce. We managed to obtain a small supply, and now have pleasure in offering one to you **ABSOLUTELY FREE** for you to add to and improve your own collection. Just send us 3d. in stamps to cover our posts.

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## THIS WEEK'S BARGAIN

This week we offer the following bargain packets:

**100 different JAPAN for 4/6**  
**50 different JAPAN for 2/-**

cash with order.  
Please note: The packets of 100 different contain the stamps in the packets of 50 different.

These packets are wonderful value. They have been specially selected and contain many scarce pictorials and modern issues. When ordering, please ask also for a selection of our World Famous Approval Sheets.

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Battery 2/- extra, postage 6d. (Post free if ordered with buzzer.)

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The Children's Newspaper, May 14, 1949

Another new adventure of BILL and JILL, the C N twins



# In this week's story they reveal . . . *The Invisible Diamond*

Told by Frank S. Pepper



ANYONE at home?" called Uncle Dick as, carrying a shopping basket and followed by the twins, Bill and Jill, he entered the hall of their London lodgings.

There was no answer to his shout.

Uncle Dick and the twins had been out on one of their sight-seeing trips, and had volunteered to do a little shopping for their landlady on the way home.

Uncle Dick handed the basket to Jill.

"You'd better empty this," he advised. "I expect Mrs Priskett would like the fish to be put in her refrigerator."

Jill began to unpack some bags of fruit, and then looked at her uncle in surprise.

"I didn't know you bought two bags of apples," she said.

"I didn't," declared Uncle Dick. "The man at the stall packed the bags into the basket for me. He must have put in two by mistake."

JILL peeped in at the apples. She picked out one big, tempting red one, and then uttered a cry of surprise as the apple fell apart in her hands into two clean-cut halves.

"Look at this!" she exclaimed. "There's a piece of glass in the middle. How did it get there?"

"Glass?" exclaimed Uncle Dick. "Let me see."

Then it was his turn to cry out in surprise.

"This isn't glass!" he declared. "It's the biggest diamond I ever saw."

"A diamond?" echoed Jill. "It can't be. What would a diamond be doing in the middle of an apple?"

Bill suddenly snapped his fingers.

"I've just remembered!" he declared. "I saw something in the newspaper this morning about a tremendously valuable diamond having been stolen. Gosh! Do you think—"

"I don't know what to think," rasped Uncle Dick. "But I know what I'm going to do. I'm going to telephone the police."

He went out into the hall, and dialled 999.

BILL, helping his sister to unpack the rest of the things in the kitchen and eagerly examining each package to see whether there were any more diamonds or other strange objects, thought he heard a car stop outside.

He looked up. Uncle Dick was saying:

"Is that the police? My name is Watson. I am staying at—"

Bill caught his breath.

The hall was suddenly full of men, who had entered without making the least noise. One of them reached over Uncle Dick's shoulder to wrap a big, beefy hand round the mouthpiece of the telephone.

Uncle Dick whirled in angry surprise as the telephone was

snatched from his hand and put back on its cradle.

"What's the meaning of this?" snapped Uncle Dick. "Who are you? Get out at once!"

"You bought some fruit off a barrow in the market this evening," the stranger replied harshly. "You received an extra bag by mistake. We want it."

"Just why should I give it to you?" rapped Uncle Dick.

"None of your business."

"Perhaps not. But you can explain that to the police."

"The police aren't coming, mister."

"Oh yes, they are," Uncle Dick asserted. "You may have cut me off before I could give them my address. But that won't help you. They will trace the call."

"You know something," mocked the other. "Calls can't be traced on an automatic exchange."

THE twins were crouching behind the kitchen door. Bill looked wild-eyed at Jill.

"They've come for the diamond," he whispered. "Quick, give it to me. We've got to hide it somewhere."

Bill took the diamond from his sister, and looked round the kitchen, desperately seeking some place of concealment for it.

The stranger turned and scowled at Uncle Dick.

"You wouldn't want us to make trouble," he said grimly. "Hand over the diamond and we'll go quietly."

"I'll do no such thing. Do you imagine I'm mad?" snapped Uncle Dick. "That diamond was stolen. You're in league with the thief. The man at the fruit-stall is a go-between. You were supposed to receive the bag of apples but someone blundered and it was given to me."

"You're smart," grinned the stranger. "A lucky thing for us some of the boys in the market remembered you."

He grabbed hold of Uncle Dick.

"Take your hands off me!" shouted Uncle Dick angrily, "or I'll—"

THE kitchen door burst open.

Bill and Jill jumped out and sprang at the man. They caught hold of his arms and tried to pull him away.

"Keep out of this!" panted Uncle Dick. "You'll get hurt."

Some of the other men caught hold of the twins and held them firmly.

"Leave Uncle Dick alone," panted Jill. "He hasn't got it."

The leader of the gang turned on her fiercely.

"Where is it?" he snapped.

"She doesn't know," Bill put in sharply. "She gave it to me, and I'm not going to tell you what I did with it."

"Maybe if we gave the kid a thrashing—" one of the men suggested.

"Quiet. I'm handling this," rapped the leader. "No violence if we can help it. We can

search. There's plenty of time. "Split up and search the house while I carefully search these three," he rapped. "The thing can't be far away. They didn't have time. Joe, you take the kitchen. That's where the kids were, so that's where it'll most likely be."

THE man called Joe barged into the kitchen. His methods of searching were ruthless.

He pulled things out of the cupboards, and scattered them all over the place. He took up a half-full packet of breakfast food, and to make sure the diamond wasn't inside he poured the stuff all over the floor. He took down the tea caddy, and poured a month's tea ration into the sink. He emptied out milk jugs, jam jars, sugar bowls.

His temper grew more savage as time went by and he met with no success.

Other men, tramping through the other rooms, were meeting equal failure and shouting back to their leader that they were wasting time.

"It must be in the kitchen, Joe," insisted the crook impatiently. "Waken up your ideas. Are you going to let a boy get the better of you?"

Joe was on his hands and knees, feeling behind the water-pipes. He looked inside all the pots and pans. He picked up the kettle and shook it.

He turned his attention to the refrigerator. He took out the fish that Uncle Dick had brought home, and threw it on the floor. He examined the butter dish, and stuck his thumb in it to see whether he could feel anything hard.

He tugged out the little trays of ice to see whether anything had been slipped in behind them. Disgusted at his lack of success he hurled the trays down. The ice cracked. Water and ice scattered all over the floor.

THERE came a sudden yell of alarm from a man in the front of the house.

"Police!"

Uncle Dick and the twins all began to shout at once. For a few moments there was the utmost confusion. The police swept in at the front door. The crooks raced through to the back, only to find that more police were waiting for them.

When the crooks had been subdued Uncle Dick turned with relief to a burly police-sergeant.

"So he was wrong when he said you wouldn't be able to trace my telephone call?" he asked.

"Telephone call, sir? I don't know anything about that. These men were using a stolen car, that's what gave them away."

"Then you don't know anything about the diamond they were searching for?" cried Uncle Dick in amazement.

"Diamond?" echoed the sergeant with a puzzled frown, as he surveyed the mess. "So that's the reason for all this mess? But where is it?"

"We'd better ask my nephew," chuckled Uncle Dick. "Where is it, Bill?"

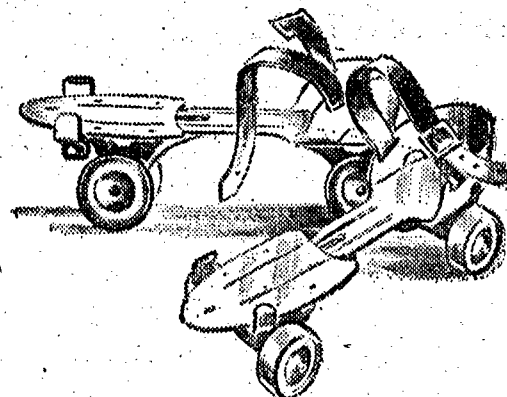
Bill stepped carefully into the kitchen, and made his way to the refrigerator. He stooped over the upturned trays, and groped among the chunks of cracked ice. Then he came up with a large piece. Only it wasn't a piece of ice. It was the missing diamond!

Another Bill and Jill story soon



a spaniel pup . . .

or a pair of skates?



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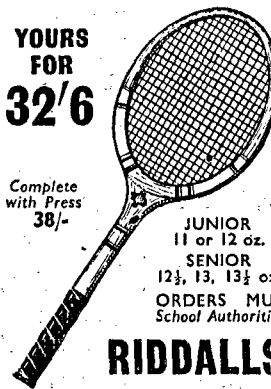
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## THE BRAN TUB

### FORECAST CERTAIN

**JIM:** Do you think it is going to rain today?

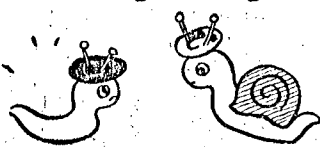
**John:** It's almost certain to. I'm wearing a new hat, a new flannel suit, and I've just washed and polished the car.

### Catch Question

**THERE** are ten apples on a tree; Ten people passed, that I could see. Each took one, And nine took none. Now how many apples will there be?

*Nine. Each was the name of the man who took one.*

### Housing Shortage



"Poor dear, no shells to let."

### FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

**Industrious Mr. Mole.** The field was plentifully dotted with small heaps of fresh earth.

"Why is the brook-field always so popular with moles?" Don asked Farmer Gray.

"Because it is damp and near water; which suits Mr Mole's requirements nicely," answered the farmer. "Moles are thirsty creatures, as well as hungry ones. They are also hard workers. During a single night a mole has been known to tunnel a distance of one hundred yards, an amazing feat for so small a creature. Where the soil is soft it is naturally more easily worked."

"In addition to enormous quantities of useful worms, moles eat a great many harmful grubs."

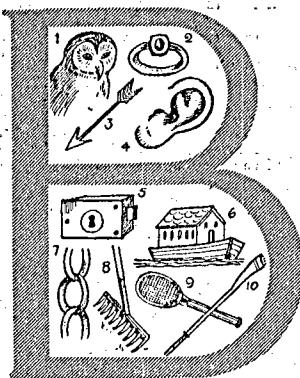
### BEDTIME CORNER

#### Fun at the Zoo

**AT** the Panda's birthday party, A pair of mischievous Goats Switched out the lights, and then for fun, They mixed all the visitors' coats. The Sea-Lions went home in feathers, The Elephants looked like Yaks; While the Tigers were terribly angry, For they all had humps on their backs. The Monkeys wore Reindeers' antlers, A Snake had a flowing mane,

And a small Guinea-pig, with a Peacock's tail, Became unbearably vain. The Giraffe had a horn like a Rhino', And Hippo began to bellow, Diving into his pool, unwilling to stir, When he found he was black and yellow. The keepers just stared next morning, When they saw the Animals' plight. And they all had to work most frightfully hard, Before they could put things right.

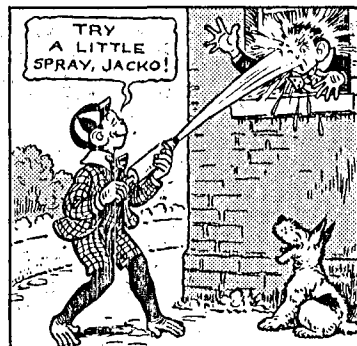
#### FIND THE NAMES AND MAKE NEW WORDS



**By** adding the letter B to the name of each object illustrated here, another word can be formed. Can you name the objects and so make the new words? When you have tried your hardest check your answers with the list given upside down below.

1 Owl, Bowl, 2 Ring, Brins. 3 Arrow, Barrow, 4 Bar, Bear. 5 Lock, Block, 6 Ark, Bark. 7 Link, Blinks, 8 Rake, Brake. 9 Racket, Bracket, 10 Oak, Boat.

## Jacko Gives Adolphus the Sack



"Wat-er blow," spluttered Jacko as the spray caught him fair and square.



So he determined to get fair and square with the scheming Chimp.



But Chimp still had the last laugh, though Adolphus didn't find it funny.

### SHE HOPPED IT!

**A NERVOUS** old lady from Crewe Decided to visit the Zoo. When she heard a lion growl She let out a wild howl And hopped away like a scared kangaroo.

### Improvement?

**LITTLE** Peter was bragging about the improvements made by the decorators in his house. "That's nothing," replied his friend Derek. "I heard Daddie say that we are going to have a mortgage on our house."

### Hidden Elements

*In this verse are hidden the names of seven elements, or phases of weather. Look carefully, or you may miss some of them.*

**WITH** Bertha ill in bed, I left To see the bride—a grand event. To Mendelssohn's well-known refrain, Adown the aisle Ethadne went. Twas now, the couple's happiest hour— They knew, indeed, and gave a smile... When to and fro stalked camera men, Both understood, and paused awhile.

*Answer next week*

### COUNTRYSIDE FLOWERS

#### Cowslip

**THE** Cowslip, or Paigle, has been aptly described as Queen of the Meadows. These beautiful plants thrive on banks and meadows, especially in clay soil. The yellow blossoms are borne in umbels, the name given to a collection of small flowers which form one head.

The thick, pale green stems are covered with soft, velvety down, and the leaves are deeply crinkled, with prominent veins on the undersides.

Herbalists consider cowslips useful as a cure for insomnia.

### Home Truth

**THE** conversation had turned to the subject of singing.

"Everyone tells me that I sing with a great deal of feeling," said Bill.

"You would show far more feeling if you did not sing," said young brother Tom.

### Children's Hour

**BBC Programmes from Wednesday May 11, to Tuesday, May 17.**

**WEDNESDAY, 5.0** Tim and the Gardener's Cat. 5.15 Regional Round. *N. Ireland*, 5.0 News Talk. *North*, 5.0 Books; Sports Quiz. *Scottish*, 5.0 Winkle—an Island Pony; Dee, Don, and the Dominie.

**THURSDAY, 5.0** Pinocchio (2). 5.30 The Would-be-Goods (2); Records. *North*, 5.30 Belle Vue Zoo Artists. *Welsh*, 5.0 Caernarvon Castle.

**FRIDAY, 5.0** Stella Polaris (4). 5.40 Birds—a Talk. *North*, 5.40 Listeners' Forum. *Scottish*, 5.40 When I Was Your Age (4).

**SATURDAY, 5.0** A Norman and Henry Bones Play. 5.40 Hampton Court—a Talk. *N. Ireland*, 5.0 I Want to be an Actor; Busman's Holiday; Songs; Piano Duets; Carolla Children's Orchestras.

**SUNDAY, 5.0** Henrietta's House (2).

**MONDAY, 5.0** A Nursery Programme. 5.30 Film Competition Results. *N. Ireland*, 5.15 Peter Comes in From the Farm; True Animal Stories; A Story; Young Writers' Scripts; A Competition; Songs. *North*, 5.0 Sing-Song; Story; Science Talk. *Scottish*, 5.0 Competition Results. 5.15 The Scottish Zoo Man; Piano; Film-Making (2).

**TUESDAY, 5.0** A Nursery Programme. 5.25 Cowleaze Farm. *North*, 5.0 Wandering with Nomad; Wednesday's Children's Concert—a Talk. *Scottish*, 5.0 A Tammy Toot Story; Down at the Mains. *Welsh*, 5.0 Programme in Welsh.

### MISSING FIGURES

**THE** printer missed some of the figures in the following multiplication sum. Can you fill them in? (Peter Puck says he is good at multiplication when he can omit unnecessary numbers!)

X9X  
XXI  
1X7  
XX8  
XXX  
XXX5XX

*Answer next week*

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Paul's Age

Paul is 10 and his father is 40.

HALL	STEP
EWETERRA	
LADLEURN	
MRANTS	E
DENSITY	
REINLEG	
EARLEGAL	
SPOREERE	
TERN	DENE

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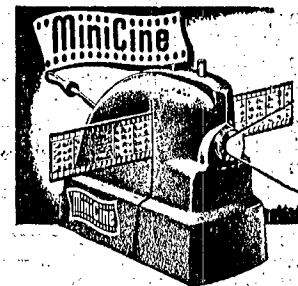
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